

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the time and courtesy extended by Examiners Smith and Weeks during the telephone interview of April 5, 2005.

In the subject office action, claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,014,876 to Young et al. In response, and in accordance with the interview referenced above, independent claim 10 has been amended to recite that the source of pressurized gas has an outlet that is coaxial with the delivery tube. As Examiner Smith noted, this breaths life into the element "the passage being in line with the outlet of the gas source and said inlet of the delivery tube" which is recited in lines 15 and 16 of claim 10.

Dependent claim 11 has been cancelled. In addition, claim 10 has been amended to recite that the sealing means contacts the transfer passage (an example of which is provided by seal 15 in the embodiment of Figs. 2A-2C of the application), as suggested by the Examiners.

New independent claim 12 has also been added by the present Amendment and recites, in accordance with the Examiners' suggestions, "a rotatable transfer passage." Otherwise, claim 12 is identical to claim 10 as amended by the present Amendment. Claims 13-17 have been added and depend from newly added independent claim 12.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 10 and newly added claim 12, and the claims which are dependent thereon, are patentable over Young et al. and the other cited references.

As discussed during the interview, Young et al. fails to disclose a source of pressurized gas having an outlet that is coaxial with a delivery tube. In addition, Young et al. fails to

disclose a transfer passage that is in line with the outlet of the gas source and the inlet of the delivery tube. The movable transfer passage of Young et al. is in the form of notch 35 and slide 30. The passage moves between the fastener supply chute 13 and an exit opening 26. The fasteners pass from the exit opening downwardly into a delivery tube 18. The delivery tube is pressurized by an air supply 48 whose outlet 53 is downstream of the transfer passage. The outlet 53 of Young et al. clearly is not coaxial with the delivery tube 18, as recited by amended claim 10. The transfer passage of Young et al. is also not in line with the air supply outlet 53 and the delivery tube 18.

Furthermore, as discussed during the interview, amended claim 10 recites a sealing means contacting the transfer passage. There is no sealing means in Young et al. to seal the transfer passage against leakage. Body member 21 is simply a metal block which defines a slot 24 in which the transfer slide 30 is mounted and there is no separate seal.

As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 10 is patentable over Young et al. and the other cited references. The claims dependent on claim 10 are therefore also patentable.

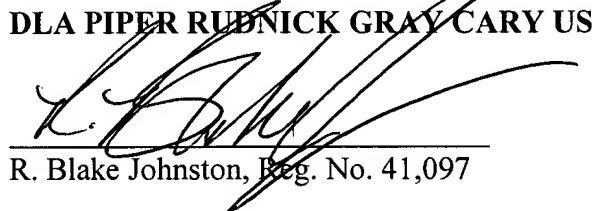
With regard to newly added claim 12, the movable transfer passage of Young et al., that is, notch 35 in slide 30, moves in a linear reciprocating fashion between the fastener supply chute 13 and an exit opening 26 (as illustrated in Figs. 4 and 6 of Young et al.), as noted by the Examiners. As a result, the transfer passage of Young et al. does not rotate, as recited by newly added claim 12. As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 12 is also patentable over the cited references. Dependent claims 13-17 are therefore also patentable.

Claim 7 has been amended to recite that the delivery tube has a "projecting formation" instead of "external orientation and/or location features" as suggested by the Examiners. In addition, claim 8 has been cancelled in accordance with the Examiners' suggestions.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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